

STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

136 State Capitol Building
Denver, Colorado 80203
(303) 866 - 2471
(303) 866 - 2003 fax



Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

In Gov. Ritter's 2007 State of the State Speech, he proposed several initiatives the Administration would undertake and aim to accomplish in 2007. Here is a status report.

APPOINTMENTS

- 1) I will appoint people who take a sensible approach, people who represent a balanced diversity of Colorado faces and interests, to our boards and commissions. (745 APPOINTMENTS: 43% WOMEN, 43% AGE 55 OR OLDER, 10% LATINO, 6% AFRICAN-AMERICAN, BASED ON VOLUNTARY SELF-REPORTING.)

ENERGY

- 2) By executive order, I will adopt the Western Governor's Association's recent resolution calling for a 20 percent improvement in the efficiency of electricity use statewide by 2020. (ISSUED GREENING OF GOV'T EXECUTIVE ORDER AND SIGNED SB 51.)
- 3) Getting wind energy on the wires will be one of my highest priorities. (SIGNED SB 91 AND 100 AND HB 1150.)
- 4) I'm eager to see the bill from Senator Schwartz and Representative Pommer that will double the renewable energy requirements of Amendment 37. (SIGNED HB 1281.)
- 5) I'm excited about the possible creation of a Colorado Clean Energy Fund that will help with the technology transfer of research to the marketplace and finally into our communities, homes and businesses. (SIGNED SB 246.)
- 6) State government also will lead by example. We must convert our vehicle fleets to hybrid or flex-fuels as they are replaced. We must increase the use of bio-fuels which are produced right here in Colorado. All new and renovated state buildings must comply with higher energy-efficiency standards and become High Performance Buildings. (ISSUED GREENING OF GOV'T EXECUTIVE ORDERS; APPOINTED GREENING GOVERNMENT COORDINATOR; AND SIGNED SB 51.)
- 7) Each year, I will recognize the remarkable people, businesses, institutions and nonprofits who work in the renewable energy field. Today, I am happy to announce the creation of the Governor's Excellence in Renewable Energy Award. (GOVERNOR WILL ANNOUNCE RECIPIENTS DURING 2008 STATE OF THE STATE SPEECH.)

HEALTH CARE

- 8) In the short term, we can make immediate progress by joining a multi-state drug-purchasing pool, and we can do it while still protecting vulnerable populations. (DIRECTED CREATION OF PREFERRED DRUG LIST ON JAN. 31.)
- 9) I applaud Senator Fitz-Gerald and Representative Madden for proposing legislation to make significant health-care investments using the remaining tobacco settlement dollars. (SIGNED SB 97.)
- 10) I intend to restore the eligibility requirements for state funding for pregnancy-prevention and family planning programs. (DONE VIA LETTER FROM CDPHE.)
- 11) I pledge to work with the Department of Public Health and Environment, local health departments and pediatric healthcare providers to increase childhood immunization rates. (SIGNED SB 97 AND HB 1347.)

TRANSPORTATION

- 12) Over the next 90 days, I will be appointing a Colorado Transportation Finance and Implementation Panel. The panel's work will begin with a statewide Transportation Summit. (PANEL MEMBERS APPOINTED IN MARCH, STATEWIDE SUMMIT AND FIRST MEETING IN APRIL, PANEL FINISHED WORK IN NOVEMBER.)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 13) One thing the Office of Economic Development and International Trade will do is market Colorado as *the best* state in the country to do business. ... I want to see us create an economic-development plan that speaks to the different parts of the state and builds on regional partnerships. (ANNOUNCED BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC-DEVELOPMENT AGENDA IN SEPTEMBER; CRAFTING STRATEGIES THAT TARGET BIOSCIENCES, TOURISM, AEROSPACE AND ENERGY; DEVISING REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AS WELL.)
- 14) We need to make sure that all of our economic-development strategies are aligned with our educational programs. That will be one of the main goals of my new Colorado Jobs Cabinet. This will be a group of senior business and leaders, along with representatives from education, economic development and workforce development agencies from around Colorado. (JOBS CABINET/P-20 COUNCIL FORMED; JOBS CABINET PLANNING GROUP HELD FIRST PUBLIC SESSION AUG. 27 IN LARIMER COUNTY.)

EDUCATION

- 15) But now we need to strengthen and streamline our different accountability programs. We need one system that provides meaningful data in a timely fashion so we can improve student learning. I look forward to working with the state Board of Education on this issue. (SIGNED HB 1048, 1345, 1270, 1320; ESTABLISHED P-20 COUNCIL.)

PUBLIC SAFETY

- 16) I have asked Directors Zavaras and Weir to examine how we can control prison costs by developing programs that allow inmates to successfully re-enter society and by making recidivism-reduction a top priority of these two departments. (ANTI-RECIDIVISM PACKAGE INCLUDED IN FY07-08 LONG BILL AND FY08-09 BUDGET REQUEST, WITH \$58M SAVINGS PROJECTED OVER FIVE YEARS; COLORADO COMMISSION ON CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE JUSTICE.)

GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

- 17) We will quickly embark on a top-to-bottom performance review. Our first step will be to establish an e-mail address for employees to submit cost-saving and efficiency ideas. (DONE; NEARLY \$145 MILLION IN SAVINGS AND BENEFITS IDENTIFIED THROUGH GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY REVIEW.)
- 18) That means transparency – including posting every department’s budget online – and cooperation. (ALL DEPARTMENT BUDGETS POSTED ONLINE; S.T.A.R. REPORT RELEASED WITH TREASURER KENNEDY.)